

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 NEA-10 EUR-12 STR-04

(ISO) W

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R 252000Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8079

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 2434

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ECIN, XL, TD, JM, GY, VE

SUBJECT: JAMAICAN REACTION TO P.M. WILLIAMS' ALLEGATIONS
OF VENEZUELAN THREAT

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 1463

1. PM MANLEY, COMMENTING ON PM ERIC WILLIAMS'S RECENT
ALLEGATIONS REGARDING JAMAICA'S BAUXITE AGREEMENTS
WITH VENEZUELA AND MEXICO, HAS DESCRIBED THEM AS "NONSENSE"
AND HAS STATED THAT IF TRINIDAD HAS ITS OWN SECRET
REASON FOR NOT WANTING TO GO THROUGH WITH THE SMELTER
AGREEMENT THEY SHOULD SAY SO.

2. SPEAKING TO AN AUDIENCE AT THE ALPART ALUMINA PLANT
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LATE LAST WEEK, MANLEY DENIED THAT JAMAICA'S DEALS WITH

MEXICO AND VENEZUELA WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PROPOSED REGIONAL SMELTER, AS JAMAICA'S COMMITMENT TO THE EXPANSION OF THE BAUXITE INDUSTRY WAS BASED ON "THE MOST RELIABLE FORECAST FOR THE INDUSTRY." MANLEY POINTED OUT THAT IN AN ATTEMPT TO DIVERSIFY HER MARKETS JAMAICA CURRENTLY WAS TRYING TO SELL ALUMINA TO THREE OTHER COUNTRIES IN ADDITION TO NEIGHBORING CUSTOMERS, ONE IN THE MIDDLE EAST (IRAN) AND TWO IN EASTERN EUROPE (HUNGARY AND POSSIBLY ROMANIA).

3. MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND FOREIGN TRADE, P.J. PATTERSON, IN A PRESS CONFERENCE DISMISSED THE CONCERN THAT OUTPUT OF THE VENEZUELEAN SMELTER COULD CAUSE A GLUT ON THE MARKET BY POINTING OUT THAT "THE DEAL BETWEEN JAMAICA AND THE LATINS WOULD BE AIMED SPECIFICALLY AT THE JAPANESE MARKET." PATTERSON CONCLUDED THAT "DR. WILLIAMS'S OUTBURST AND HIS VERBAL NOTICE TO WITHDRAW FROM THE DEAL HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF CARICOM BUT CANNOT BE TREATED AS THE LAST WORD, AS THERE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE TO BE FORMAL CANCELLATIONS BY THE PARTIES INVOLVED."

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH HIS PUBLIC REACTION HAS BEEN MILD, PM MANLEY IS REPORTED TO BE FURIOUS AT WILLIAMS' ALLEGATION THAT JAMAICA IS ENCOURAGING VENEZUELEAN COLONIALISM IN THE CARIBBEAN. WHILE MOST INFLUENTIAL JAMAICANS DISMISS WILLIAMS'S CHARGES AS SILLY, THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT THE GROWING BAD BLOOD BETWEEN THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS AND THE APPARENT BREAKDOWN IN COMMUNICATIONS MIGHT LEAD TO ACTIONS THAT WOULD DAMAGE CARICOM.

5. BY TAKING THE LINE THAT JAMAICA IS STILL INTERESTED IN THE TRINIDAD SMELTER, MANLEY IS POSITIONING HIMSELF TO LET WILLIAMS TAKE THE BLAME IF, AS EXPECTED, THE DEAL FALLS THROUGH. KNOWLEDGEABLE BAUXITE SOURCES SEE WILLIAMS'S APPARENT PULL-OUT FROM THE REGIONAL SMELTER AS A BLESSING IN DISGUISE AS ITS ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY IS DUBIOUS AND THE DEALS WITH MEXICO AND VENEZUELA ARE MUCH MORE ATTRACTIVE FOR JAMAICA.

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GERARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BAUXITE, AGREEMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KINGST02434
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750222-0419
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750618/aaaaapzu.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PORT OF SPAIN 1463
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAMAICAN REACTION TO P.M. WILLIAMS' ALLEGATIONS OF VENEZUELAN THREAT
TAGS: PFOR, ECIN, XL, TD, JM, GY, VE, (WILLIAMS, ERIC)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006